

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE

The 2008 Early Fall Canada goose season was open from 6-26 September in the Unit 1 counties specified in the 2008 hunting guide, which included most of the state. However, nonresidents were prohibited from hunting in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner and Union during these dates. The daily bag limit was 5 geese and possession was double the daily bag. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2008, there were 32,577 hunters licensed to hunt the Early Fall Canada goose season (32,317 residents, 260 nonresidents). About 11% (3,714) of the resident hunters and 99% (257) of the nonresident hunters were surveyed. The survey response rates were 69% for residents and 77% for nonresidents.

In 2008, there were a projected 5,275 hunters who hunted at least one day in Unit 1 during the Early Fall season. From the survey responses, there were a projected 27,924 geese harvested from Sept. 6-26 in Unit 1.

As in 2007, resident hunters were surveyed utilizing the Migratory Bird Survey instead of a separate Resident Early Fall Canada Goose Survey that was used in previous years. They were only asked whether or not they hunted and how many Canada geese they harvested during the early season.

Prior to 1999, it was not possible to draw a sample from the current year's hunters due to the license system structure. Since then, hunters from the current year's database have been surveyed. This change in license structure improved the accuracy in estimating the number of hunters and harvest. Consequently, comparisons between numbers generated from different license structures may be misleading due to basic procedural differences.

Comparison of the 1997 - 2008 Early Fall Canada goose harvests

Year	Number Hunters	Harvest	Average Days Hunted	Average Season Bag
1997	6,506	11,281	2.67	1.73
1998	6,682	15,768	2.90	2.36
1999	9,173	25,960	3.15	2.83
2000	10,142	37,365	3.83	3.68
2001	8,358	51,491	3.58	6.16
2002	9,459	34,831	3.80	3.68
2003	10,152	42,417	3.82	4.18
2004	7,662	26,113	3.24	3.41
2005	5,686	21,499	3.22	3.78
2006	6,095	25,755	3.09	4.23
2007	5,876	26,698	UNK	4.54
2008	5,275	27,924	UNK	5.29

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2008

Last Revised: 21 May 09

	Resident	Non Residents
EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold *1*	32,317	260
Number Sampled by Survey	3,714	257
Number Responded to Survey	2,578	197
Responded and Participated in Season	403	169
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,175	28
Survey Response Rate	69.4%	76.7%
No. Hunters Reporting Canada Goose Days	403	169
Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days	UNK	691
Average Days Hunted Canada Geese	UNK	4.09
Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged	2,126	947
Average Canada Goose Bag for Season	5.28	5.60
Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting	UNK	912
Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters	5,052	223
Projected Canada Goose Bag	26,675	1,249
TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST EARLY FALL SEASON = 27,924		

Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *2*	5.16	5.05
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1 For residents: number of licenses based on # Migratory Bird Certificates in the 2008 GF82 database

For nonresidents: number of Nonresident Waterfowl licenses sold in GF79

2 Based on a scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST, 1996-2008

